

THE FREE PRESS

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

Vol. XII.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Monday, March 10, 1862.

New Series.—No. 9.

Colonial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Debate on the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech continued.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY—I do not know, Mr. Chairman, what impression the leader and members of the Opposition expect that their long speeches will make on the minds of the people of this Colony. If they have been uttered in the hope of inducing a change in the Government, I can only say that, in my opinion, such anticipations will never be realized, for the only conclusion to which I can bring my mind is, that there has been a prospective saving in the three years during which the present Government has been in power, of at least £20,000. The inference drawn by the hon. member for the city, Mr. Beer, that the debt would have been increased by that amount, had the late Government retained office, was a perfectly correct and legitimate deduction from their antecedents. They may think it a calamity that the country should not have an addition to its debt of £20,000. But, Sir, the chief complaint is that they have not the offices. They number in their ranks an ex Attorney General, who I mention the loss of £500 a year, and an ex Provincial Secretary, who bears the loss of a similar amount, and he exclaims that it is a great calamity that there is no Provincial Secretary on the floor of this House. There is also, Sir, an ex Queen's Printer, who cries out, "Great is the Diana of the Ephesians," since his craft is not merely in danger, but is gone. They complain that this debate has drifted into a discussion of the financial condition of the Island. Why, then, Sir, did they introduce that subject? They are endeavoring to make political capital out of that which they cannot extract it. Sir, the eyes of the country are open, and the ears of the country are open, and no amount of talk can subvert the consciousness that the Opposition are in the wrong. Therefore, it is, Mr. Chairman, that I say there is no use of prolonging this debate; we had better bring it to a close at once, and then express our sympathy for Her Majesty in her sad bereavement.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—I rise, Mr. Chairman, merely to reply to some of the statements which fell from the hon. leader of the Opposition, last evening, and from the hon. member, Mr. Hensley, this morning. I was surprised at the arguments of the latter gentleman. He censured the Government for not having proposed some scheme by which to provide for the drain upon the revenue for educational purposes, and he twitted us with not having kept the expenditure within the revenue. I ask, Sir, did the late Government do so? Yesterday when I argued that it was the duty of the late Government to have provided some measures which would have met the growing demands on the public funds, which, they might have foreseen, would arise from the expansion of the scheme they introduced, I was contradicted, and now the hon. member blames the Government for having acted as his own party did. Where is the line of distinction to be drawn?

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY—The hon. member has misunderstood me. What I said was that when the Government admitted that the expenditure was in excess of the revenue, it was their duty to propose some remedial measure.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—As the case stands at present, it is difficult, if not impossible, to equalize expenditure and revenue. The Act upon our Statute book binds us to support the system; cost what it may, it must be maintained *per se* out system.

Hon. Mr. COLES—The Civil List is settled by Statute.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—The Civil List is charged on the general revenues of the Colony, while education was provided for by a special Act imposing a particular tax. It is not the duty of this Government to lay on taxes to meet charges which the late Government should have provided for by anticipation. The leader of the Opposition asked, who ever heard of a law imposing taxes for 20 years to come? Why, Mr. Chairman, it would be quite proper to do so, and the hon. gentleman should have provided for the evil to come—he ought to have provided the means of support for the system, autonomous and co-existent with its progressive expansion. He might have brought in such a law to last for a certain number of years, and it could be amended as circumstances might require. The hon. member, Mr. Hensley, said that the Government should raise a revenue adequate to the wants of the public service. The late Government did not do so; their expenditure beyond the revenue during the last three years of their tenure of office was greater than that of the present for the same period of time. We have bought two estates, and the costs of both are brought into our accounts. With reference to the hon. member's objection to the reference in the Address to the educational system, as at present constituted, I think that it will be wise in the House to adopt it, as it is our great, in fact, I may say, the great cause of the difference between our revenue and our expenditure. Other items of expenditure can be cut down, but this charge is of a different character. To law authorizes its extension, almost indefinitely, and renders imperative the payment of the expense. I may state, Mr. Chairman, that the reference in the Address to education emanated solely from the mind of the gentleman who prepared it, and in my opinion he acted wisely in inserting it. Neither the Government nor any member of it suggested to that hon. member (Mr. Davies) the propriety of making the allusion, but, Sir, the Government have not the slightest hesitation in endorsing the statement to its fullest extent, and the hon. member is entitled to credit for having brought the question so prominently forward. I was amused last evening at the assertion of the hon. leader of the Opposition to the effect that the Government had added to the expense of education by increasing the salaries of schoolmasters. Sir, we rendered it incumbent on teachers to go before the Board of Education, and submit to examination, to test how far they were qualified for the proper discharge of the important duties confided to them. Our object was to obtain the services of competent instructors, and our course has, I am happy to say, been productive of a great deal of good. It appears that a large proportion of the candidates passed the Board. In the year 1860, the sum paid for the salaries of school teachers, was £14,396 6s 6d, and in refutation of the charge preferred against the Government by the hon. leader of the Opposition to the effect that our addition to their salaries increased the working expense of the system, he will find by an inspection of the accounts that in 1861, the amount paid for salaries was but £13,776 3s 7d—so, therefore, effected a saving of £620 2s 11d, in cash, besides giving to the country the benefit of the services of a superior class of men. I have thus shown, Sir, that so far from the charge against the Government, preferred by the leader of the Opposition being true, that we have not only raised the standard of the teachers as a class, but have effected a positive saving of £620 2s 11d. Those facts will, I think, Mr. Chairman, go far to prove that the present Government are not inattentive to the best interests of the people.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN—No doubt, Mr. Chairman, education is one of the most important interests we have to support; but it has now increased to such proportions that some means must be devised to provide for its cost. That some means to £17,000, which, out of a revenue of about £40,000, is entirely too much. A great deal has been said about the late Government having failed in their duty, inasmuch as they did not provide means for the future growth of the system. But, Sir, we contemplated supporting about 200 schools and there are now over 300, and it is only reasonable to suppose that, as new settlements are formed, new schools will be asked for. I must say, Sir, that I am not disposed to complain of the increase in the salaries of the teachers. The country has got full value in the improved class of men who are now employed. Really, Sir, a few years since, persons were receiving the public money as teachers in our schools who were a disgrace to the Colony. It is the duty of the House to devise some means of meeting the heavy burden now borne upon the revenue for this service, either by devoting part of the charge upon the parents of pupils, or by some other scheme calculated to relieve the finances. However, Sir, as we shall have this subject to discuss over again, when the public accounts are before us, I think the sooner the question is taken the better.

Mr. DAVIES—As Chairman of the Committee which prepared the Address, I feel called upon to say a few words on the subject of the paragraph before us. Notwithstanding the remarks of the hon. member, Mr. Hensley, I cannot think that the Committee has exceeded their province by the allusion to the large sum required for the purposes of education, as bearing an undue proportion to the resources of the Colony. The Committee deemed it their duty to bring the subject prominently before the notice of the country, for it is evident that additional taxation must be the result of the continuance of the present system. The Government has only been in power three years, and they find the revenue inadequate to the expenditure, by reason of the cost of education. I am aware, Sir, that the present scheme of education is generally approved of by the people, and it is proper to bring the question before the public, in order that at the next general election, the people may express their opinion on it in connection with their bearing upon the finances of the Colony. It is, in my opinion, not to be expected that the Government should now propose a tax of some £10,000 for this service. Such proceeding before public opinion has been elicited, would damage the Government materially. As the hon. member, Mr. Longworth, stated, adequate provision for its maintenance should have been made when the system was introduced. New school districts have been formed, and it would be no matter of astonishment if the cost should have increased at the rate of £1000 a year. In a few years we may probably have to pay £20,000 a year if things are allowed to go on as at present. The strictest scrutiny of the public accounts for the past year will show no lavish expenditure on the part of the Government. They have had to incur some extraordinary expenses—such, for instance, as those connected with the visit of the Prince of Wales, the approaching industrial exhibition, the College, &c. With reference to the exhibition, I must say that I think it would have been better had the Government last Session asked the House for a grant; but they did the next best thing they could in advancing money for the collection and transmission of the various articles which the Island could furnish for Exhibition. I may, in conclusion, state that the clause before the Committee was not altered in any way; the original draft was, of course, submitted to the members of the majority, as it now stands, and it met their approval.

Mr. BEER—The hon. Leader of the Opposition stated that the present Government came into power pledged to do better than their predecessors had done. I maintain, Mr. Chairman, that they have done so. When they came into office there was a tremendous leakage; there had been an annual excess of expenditure of £2000 a year for the last three years of the late Government and they had no lands purchased. Now, Sir, the present Government, exclusively of the lands they have bought, have stopped about £5000 a year of that leak, that is, if they had not purchased the lands they would not have exceeded the revenue more than about £4000 a year. They are not liable to the charge of extravagance. On the contrary, I think, they have been almost too economical. I had almost said niggardly. When the hon. Leader of the Opposition censures the Government for having increased the pay of the schoolmasters, he should bear in mind that that measure was approved of by the members of his own party. The hon. member Mr. Wightman expressed himself very strongly on the subject, and characterized the former style of teachers as a disgrace. But, Sir, it appears that so far from that measure having entailed additional costs upon the Colony, it has operated as a saving, as several of the old teachers did not present themselves to the Board for re-examination. The consequence has been that some £600 a year have been saved. When we consider this fact, in connection with the higher qualifications of the teachers, I consider that the Government are entitled to commendation rather than censure.

Mr. SINCLAIR—Mr. Chairman, I do not expect that the question of this nature would have arisen, for I could see nothing in the speech, which was so cautiously worded, that it said nothing of the past nor alluded to the prospects of the future. Sir, it appears to me that the ship of state is not sailing before a favorable gale—that there are no indications of a prosperous voyage. Notwithstanding the vaunted predictions of their competency to take the helm and their skill in navigation, we find them now, after three years, still buffeting with the storm and drifting out to a lee shore. Instead of manfully beating off they are now throwing out their anchors in the hopes of being able to ride out the gale until the next general election. I think that they should willingly withdraw the charge they made against the late Government of having ruined the country by their extravagance. One member of the Government honorably admitted that the heavy expense incurred by the late Government in keeping Government House in repair, was absolutely necessary; and I think, Sir, that if his colleagues would act with equal frankness and candor, their consciences would probably be easier. The Liberals were in power eight years. When they took office they found the country £22,000 in debt. They expended vast sums on Education; they constructed important public works, they expended annually on roads and bridges amounts far larger than the present Government has done, yet when they retired from office they left the Colony with an addition to its debt of only £8000. In three years the present Government has increased the public debt about £27,000. For that I would not blame them so much, if it were not for their loud professions of economy. It will not do for them now, when the debt has become so great, and by their own admission is likely to increase, to say that they will wait until the people shall tell them what they are to do. Sir, they came into power on the strength of allegations against their opponents and promises of great benefits to result from their possession of the Government. They denounced the late Government for extravagance; they charged them with lavishing the public money upon themselves and their supporters, and pledged themselves to equalize the revenue and expenditure. How have they redeemed those pledges? The hon. member for Charlottetown certainly gave a strange reason for the praise he bestowed on the present Government for their alleged economy, when he said that if the Liberals had been in power during the last three years the country would have been £20,000 more in debt than it is. How can he prove that assertion I am at a loss to know. I am surprised, Mr. Chairman, that the Education Act should be held up as an excuse for all the debt of the Colony. The Government admits that the scheme was a good one, yet, in the same breath in which they say that, they blame their predecessors for not having, years ago, provided means to maintain a system which they take to themselves the credit of having perfected. Under the late Government the revenue increased sufficiently to meet the increasing demands for Education; and if the present Government have by extending the operation of the system, which, I presume, they mean when they say that they have perfected it, thereby adding to its cost, they should at least provide the means of meeting the extra charge; but they now say let us drift into debt until the people come and extort us.

Mr. HOWAT—Mr. Chairman, in my opinion the only difficulty with the opposition is, that they don't see the Government imposing taxes upon the country. We have been told that the only means to meet the expenditure is by laying on a tax. I am amused at the lawyerlike manner in which the hon. member Mr. Hensley beat round the bush; but I can tell that gentleman that it is but a poor recompense to his constituents to get them saddled with an additional tax.

Hon. Mr. COLES—Mr. Chairman, in the absence of the hon. member Mr. Hensley, I deny that he advocated a tax. What he did say was that unless the expenditure should be curtailed there must be increased taxation.

Mr. HOWAT—Well, Mr. Chairman, the only inference I could draw from what that hon. member said was that the Government should tax the people. We have all heard of the monkey who got the cat to drag the hot potatoes out of the fire. Whoever will propose to tax the people will find he has got a hot berth of it. (Laughter.) I for one am opposed to taxation. I came in pledged to oppose it and I have redeemed my pledge. The question of a tax for Education should go before the people, who are the proper judges of the propriety or impropriety of the matter. It is the duty of the Government to economize as much as possible and go

on with Education. That the salaries of the teachers are not too high is proved by the fact that the people have to contribute towards their support, in the different districts, in addition to the salaries paid by Government. I think the only way to get out of the difficulty will be by knocking the College into a cocked hat.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON—I do not wish to protract this debate, Mr. Chairman, by any lengthy observations of mine, but I must say that it is somewhat singular that while the speech merely expresses regret that the revenue has not been commensurate with the expenditure—while it contains not one word on the subject of Education, the address says that in view of the large sums appropriated for Education it is impossible to keep within the limits of the revenue. Now, Sir, it is not for me to say whether this has been inserted in the address as an excuse for the Government diminishing the number of schools or the salaries of the teachers, or whether it is intended as an anticipatory justification of future taxation. The paragraph would have been quite proper if His Excellency had referred to the subject in the speech. Although we have been told that the paragraph before us was not dictated by the Government, it is not unlikely that some of the Committee on the address may have been instructed to insert something of the kind. I have heard no complaints from the people of the grant for Education; but, Sir, I have heard many with reference to appropriations for other purposes. I last year supported the grant for the Normal School and Prince of Wales College, and my constituents have manifested no disapproval of my conduct. I would ask the hon. member for Tryon, who has expressed such a strong objection to taxation, if he voted for the increased *ad valorem* duty. It was stated that a portion of the charge of Education was to be defrayed from the proceeds of that increase. I have no reluctance to support a moderate increase in the tariff for the purposes of Education, even if my constituents should reject me in consequence of my having done so. If the Government deem it necessary or expedient to increase the taxes they should do so fairly and openly, but when it is not asked for by the Lieut. Governor or the Government, why is the clause introduced into the paragraph under consideration of the Committee? But, Sir, I suppose we shall know something more than we do at present on that subject when the public accounts come before us.

Hon. Mr. KELLY—Mr. Chairman, as so much has been said on Education in this debate, and as hon. members of the Government assert that we on this side ought to be grateful to them for the improvements which they have incorporated into the system, I rise, not so much for the purpose of censuring them for extravagance as of giving them credit for conduct of an opposite character, but whether we have much cause for thankfulness remains to be seen. In a portion of the district which I have the honor to represent, and I may say, in my own immediate neighborhood. (Dromore Settlement) the number of householders is between 40 and 50. A primary school has been in operation there for several years, the teacher of which, a female, received from the legislature an annual grant of some £18 or £20. This school gave satisfaction to the people and was progressing favourably until last Session, when the usual grant to the teacher was under consideration. We were then told by the hon. Mr. Longworth and other members of the Government that no further grant would be made to schools of that description—that every teacher must be properly qualified according to the requisitions of the statute, all of the provisions of which must be complied with before a teacher could receive a penny of public money. Now, Sir, in consequence of that declaration from members of the Government, the services of the teacher were necessarily discontinued. But the people, appreciating the benefits of Education for their children, had a plan of the district prepared, showing the situation of the roads and a list of the number of houses and of the children, made out by a competent person and forwarded to the Board of Education, with a petition praying that body to sanction the school. After the application had been before the Board from April till November, a magistrate was appointed, as the law directs, to report to the Board. On the receipt of his report the establishment of the school was sanctioned and its immediate operation was approved of. But Mr. Chairman, when the people set about the erection of their schoolhouse, they were informed that the Government refused to confirm the action of the Board of Education, alleging as a reason that there were no funds for the erection of additional schools. Now, Sir, I deny that this was to be considered as an additional school; it was but a renewal of one which had previously existed. Although the inhabitants of Dromore Settlement have got no school, nor is there any in the vicinity, they have to pay their tax of six shillings and eight pence for every hundred acres of land they hold, besides their proportion of all other taxes of the Island. Under these circumstances, Mr. Chairman, as I do not think my constituents owe the Government much gratitude for what they have done for them in the matter of Education, it is my intention to vote for the amendment.

Hon. Mr. COLES—The hon. member for the city, Mr. Beer, stated that the Government had expended £2000 a year more than the revenue within the last three years, and he at the same time admitted that the present Government has run the country some £27,000 in debt since they have been in power.

Mr. BEER—I showed that the Government had paid £16,000 more than their predecessors had purchased in the period referred to.

Hon. Mr. COLES—In 1857 we paid £2550 for land, besides £1200 for agriculture. To this latter interest the Government has contributed nothing. They have certainly expended money with reference to the roads; they spent no more than some £9000 or £5000 a year on that service, while we annually gave about £4000 towards it, and what they saved from the road and bridge service they spent in other ways, not so essentially important. It might be mentioned in the debate, and when the hon. member talks of their having stopped the great leak, as he called it, I want to know, how it was stopped, if not at the expense of the roads and bridges.

Mr. BEER—If the Selkirk Estate and Lot 54 are nothing—if they are merely money—then I admit that there has been no saving.

Hon. Mr. COLES—In 1855, the late Government spent in repairs of Government House, and the purchase of a piece of ground in the neighborhood, £1216. The Provincial Building cost us about £1200 in two years. We gave £1216 for agriculture. In 1857, we ran £2550 for the purchase of public lands. In consequence of the fact that the hon. member says that he is so strongly opposed to taxation, forgets that he voted for the increase of 14 per cent to the tariff.

Hon. Mr. HOWAT—I rise to correct the hon. member. I never voted for that measure, and I defy him to prove that I did so.

The hon. member, Mr. Davies, said that the Government have been so short a time in office that it was not fair to expect that they should have remedied the financial state of the country by this time. But, Sir, they have had ample time for it, inasmuch as they had had it in their power to do anything on the subject, they would have done so before this.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—Mr. Chairman, of all the members of the minority, I am satisfied that the credit of being the least troublesome to the House will be generally conceded to me. (Laughter.) That character I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost character. I am still disposed to merit; and I shall, therefore, occupy but little time in the observations I shall make; and I must confine them by the expression of my surprise at the lectures we have received from our political opponents as to the propriety of bringing into debate to an early conclusion, in connection with hon. members of the Government, I have been edited by the reference to the Nova Scotia Legislature, the action of which body has been held up as an example to us. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, told the Committee that it was desirable that we should come to a speedy decision on the address, as the English mail will be in consequence to Her Majesty the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort. I was happy to listen to the hon. member recommending his opinion; but, Sir, I have to express my regret that his recommendation fell on an unpropitious ear upon the part of the House, for no less than five of the great guns of the majority have been brought to bear upon my honorable friend the leader of the opposition. The hon. leader of the Government, Col. Gray, his colleagues, Major Longworth and Lieut. Col. Hatfield, who bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the hon. member from Tryon, and the no less distinguished member for the city, Mr. Beer, all have brought their artillery to bear upon the hon. leader of the opposition. I have not, Sir, heard all that has been said; but I trust I shall be able to console myself with the reflection that it is just possible that I have not lost